(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The issues raised in the complaints were looked into and it was found that the charges levelled could not be substantiated.

Purchase of Westland helicopters for ONGC

2452. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:
SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:
DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to purchase Westland WG-30 helicopters for the use of O.N.G.C. and OIL;

(b) if so, how many helicopters are proposed to be purchased;

(c) whether the offshore platforms in Bombay High where these helicopters are to be used need strengthening to accommodate the heavy weight of these helicopters;

(d) whether the purchase of the helicopters will be economical or hiring them will be economical; and

(e) whether it is a fact that most of the national and private oil companies in the world hire helicopters for off-shore operations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have decided to purchase 21 Westland helicopters to cater to the requirements of the Petroleum Sector and for scheduled/non-scheduled services be provided by the Helicopter Corporation of India.

(c) Westland Helicopters to be acquired by the Helicopter Corporation of India are capable of landing/taking off from all types of helipads in off-shore installations with requisite complement of crew and carriage of necessary equipmen

(d) The purchase of helicopters will be economical since out of the total package cost of £ 70 millions, the U.K. Government is providing aid amounting to £ 65 million. The Helicopter Corporation of India is expected to offer services at internationally competitive rates.

(e)Many oil companies do meet their requirements of off-shore operations by charter-hire of helicopters.

Introduction of selection grade in the National Gallery of Modern Art

2453. SHRI S. W. DHABE:
SHRI F. M. KHAN:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Gallery of Modern Art, New Delhi has not implemented the guidelines regarding introduction of 20 percent selection grade posts for Group 'D' staff;

(d) if so, the names of Group 'D' employees who have not given any promotion even after completing 25 years of service; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to ensure for introduction of selection grade posts therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise.

Second Hooghly Bridge

@2453-A. SHRI NEPALDEV BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state.

(a) whether the Chief Minister of West Bengal has written to him on the works of the Second Hooghly Bridge recenly;

(b) if so what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is the Government's response thereto?

@ Previously Unstarred Question 2196 transferred from the 18th March 1986.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government have asked for an enhancement of loan assistance beyond Rs. 150 crores agreed to in 1983.

(c) The Second Hooghly Bridge under construction falls on State road and is primarily the concern of the West Bengal Government. The Government of India had agreed in 1983 to a grant of loan assistance of Rs. 150 crores for this project as a very special case. This was subject to the condition that cost over runs, if any, beyond Rs. 150 crores would be met by the State Government from their own resources.

Circulation of Spurious Drugs

@2453-B. SHRI SHANTIMOY GHOSH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the Indian Medical Association over 10 per cent of the drugs being sold in the country are spurious:

(b) if so, how this is being allowed by the concerned authorities responsible for controlling drugs; and

(c) how the Government is considering to improve the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) According to the report appeared in the 'Patriot' dated 15-1-86, over 10 per cent of the drugs being sold are spurious.

(b) Under the provisions of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules made thereunder, control over the manufacture and sale of drugs is exercised by the State Drug Control Authorities. Action to detect the production and distribution of spurious drugs has, therefore, mainly to be taken by them. If a case of manufacture or sale of spurious drugs is detected the State Drugs Authorities take action to seize the spurious drugs and launch prosecution against the involved persons.

(c) To tackle the problem of substandard drugs, the Government set up a Task Force which recommended that:

(1) every drug manufacturing unit should have minimum testing facilities.

(2) strict control over licensing of drug formulations.

(3) strengthening of the Inspectorate staff in the States.

(4) establishment of a separate intelligence machinery to tackle the problem of manufacture and sale of spurious drugs.

(5) constitution of special courts to deal with the offences under Drugs and Cosmetics Act.

Its recommendations were communicated to the State Governments and State Governments have been requested repeatedly to give effect to the recommendations. A pro-forma has been prescribed for monthly submission of reports by the State Drug Controllers and the State Governments have been requested to send monthly reports on drawl of samples and analysis of them. These reports are being consolidated and commented upon. Also a list of equipments necessary for drug testing laboratories has been communicated to the State Units and the State Governments have been requested to equip their laboratories accordingly. On 22nd February, 1986 a meeting of the State Health Ministers was held exclusively to discuss matters relating to implementation of Drugs and Cosmetics Act and the P.F.A. Act. At the meeting, the

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@Previously Unstarred Question 2003 transferred from the 17th March 1986.